

Water users shut out of new bridge meeting

By DONALD W. MEYERS

The Daily Herald

The vice president of the Provo River Water Users Association was not invited to a meeting with Orem officials on building a bridge across the Murdock Canal.

Critics claim Harley Gilman was not informed of the meeting between the city, the Bureau of Reclamation and the PRWUA about locking gates on the canal access roads that would run near the bridge at 1200 North.

Public Works Director Richard Manning said during a recent neighborhood meeting on the canal that Gilman, who is an Orem resident, was not invited to the meeting to discuss the PRWUA's compromise of allowing the east bank gates to be locked, while leaving the west bank wide open.

Residents living near the canal argue that both canal roads should be locked to prevent their children from wandering into the area and drowning in the waterway.

The PRWUA, which operates the canal with the BOR, say they need unfettered access to the canal and gates would cause liability problems for the canal.

Gilman is described by some close to the issue as sympathetic to

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safety concerns.

Gilman said he did not feel he was being kept out of the discussions for sinister purposes, but said the debate on the subject is being handled by PRWUA Superintendent Richard Poulson.

"The superintendent has represented us very well," Gilman said. "There was nothing I would have done differently."

Poulson said he acted as the board's representative, and followed their directions when he met with the city.

"I am acting on the direction of the board and the legal counsel. They load the bullets and I fire them," Poulson said.

Gilman said he appreciates the residents' concerns about the canal, based on his own experience of having a niece drown in an irrigation canal.

But, there are other points on the canal where streets cross it and there are no locked gates.

Poulson said the canal company locks the gates in the winter, when there is no water in the canal, to keep people from dumping debris into the channel.

In the summer, the gates are left open to allow maintenance crews to monitor the canal for leaks.

SALT LAKE CITY — Rep. Bill Orton has introduced legislation to revamp several areas of Federal Housing Administration procedures for granting low down payment mortgages.

"The FHA mortgage program plays an important role in Utah in helping young couples and individuals enter the housing market," the Utah Democrat said Thursday. "My legislation will modernize the FHA, thereby expanding opportunities for first-time home buyers."

The FHA has historically accounted for a quarter of the home loans granted in Utah.

First, the lawmaker wants to eliminate a longstanding prohibition against using parental loans in conjunction with an FHA mortgage. Currently, parents can help with down payments only if they characterize the aid as a gift.

"Families that make wise financial plans, aimed at helping their children buy that first home, should not be hindered

Orton argued.

He also proposes simplifying the calculation of the down payment required for FHA homes. Orton's bill would replace the current two-part formula widely criticized for its complexity.

A third change would allow the FHA to insure so-called two-step mortgages, which only private firms can now insure. The two-step mortgage allows borrowers to establish a fixed rate for the initial years, and then re-set interest rates periodically over the remainder of the mortgage.

Orton also would like to simplify the method by which the FHA determines how much it can loan by setting one national loan floor.

"Currently, the loan amount for an FHA mortgage varies widely in various parts of the nation. By setting a simpler national formula, smaller jurisdictions, like Utah, will spend less time bogged down in paperwork, while expanding opportunities for purchasers," he explained.

Eagle Forum convention slated

Utah's newest Congresswoman, Enid Waldholtz, R-Utah, is scheduled to speak at the Eagle Forum's annual state convention Saturday at Utah Valley State College.

The convention will run from 9

an advocacy organization that supports a pro-family and conservative philosophy. It promotes traditional morality, private enterprise and national defense. Ruzicka of her organization a voice for families.

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Construction can begin on canal bridge

By DONALD W. MEYERS

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With the last hurdle cleared, construction can begin on the new 1200 North-Murdock Canal bridge "any day now."

Scott Ward, Public Works Department spokesman, said the city received a crossing permit from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, allowing it to begin work on the bridge.

The only thing holding up the project is Western Quality Concrete clearing its construction schedule to start work. The Mapleton contractor was awarded the contract for the bridge project.

"The contract has been awarded. They can start any day now," Ward said.

City officials are hoping to have the footings installed by April 8, when water will begin flowing through the canal.

Alan Christensen, a BOR civil engineer, said the bureau issued the permit last week after completing an environmental assessment on the project. The assessment was held up because of public protests that the bridge was not safe if the gates along the canal banks were not locked.

The BOR, which owns the canal, and the Provo River Water Users Association, the group which maintains the waterway, argued that open gates were necessary to allow workers quick access to the canal for inspections, routine maintenance and emergencies.

But residents said children could wander through the open gates and fall into the canal.

As a compromise, a group of residents, city officials and representatives from the BOR and PRWUA devised a system where the gates would be opened by a mechanical device when trucks approached.



Barbara Lockhart

Professor honored for charity work

By MARK EDDINGTON

The Daily Herald

Brigham Young University physical education professor Barbara Lockhart has received a Provo Community Service Award for her charitable work with the homeless and disadvantaged.

Lockhart received the award Tuesday from Provo Mayor George Stewart and members of the City Council. In presenting Lockhart with the award, Stewart noted her experience as an Olympic speed skater in the 1960 and 1964 Olympics.

"Barbara is known for being able to cover twice as much ground in half the usual time. It is this mind-set that saw the world-class speed skater through two Olympic games, through her years as director of women's athletics and assistant dean in the College of Physical Education at Temple University, and through her service as president of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance," Stewart said.

Lockhart has covered a lot of ground, both in her professional life and through her work with charitable causes. She is a founding board member of the Food and Care Coalition of Utah Valley and has actively supported causes and organizations that deal with issues af-